

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and following remarks are submitted to address the issues raised in the Office Action mailed July 25, 2006. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-8, 10-33, 49 and 50 are currently pending in the application, claim 9 having been cancelled in this reply. Claims 1-5, 7, 10, 16-21, 26-32, 49 and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 424833 to Goodall et al. taken in view of Suzuki et al. (US 5,137,785). Claims 11-15, 22-25 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 424833 to Goodall et al. taken in view of Suzuki et al. (US 5,137,785), as applied above, and further in view of the admitted state of the prior art as applied in the last office action.

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-5, 7, 10, 16-21, 26-32, 49 and 50 – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The rejection of claims 1-5, 7, 10, 16-21, 26-32, 49 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 424833 to Goodall et al. taken in view of Suzuki et al. (US 5,137,785) is believed to be rendered moot by the foregoing amendments.

The foregoing amendments incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 9 into the independent claims. As such, Applicant respectfully asserts that all claims, including previously withdrawn claims 6 and 8, are allowable and respectfully requests reconsideration and removal of the rejection.

Claims 11-15, 22-25 and 33 – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The rejection of claims 11-15, 22-25 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 424833 to Goodall et al. taken in view of Suzuki et al. (US 5,137,785), as applied above, and further in view of the admitted state of

the prior art as applied in the last office action is believed to be rendered moot by the foregoing amendments.

The foregoing amendments incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 9 into the independent claims. As such, Applicant respectfully asserts that all claims are allowable and respectfully requests reconsideration and removal of the rejection.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully requests early consideration of the present application, entry of all amendments herein requested, and allowance of all pending claims.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to contact Todd W. Galinski at (919) 468-5979 ex6204, to discuss any matter relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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